

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS STATE 188333

FOLLOWING FEPEAT STATE 188333 ACTION ALL NATO CAPITALS BERN
DUBLIN EC BRUSSELS GENEVA HELSINKI MADRID MOSCOW NICOSIA NATO
STOCKHOLM USUN VIENNA AUGUST 27TH

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 188333

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - CYPRUS

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT EXCERPTS OF PRESS BRIEFING BY
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT ANDERSON ON CYPRUS SITUATION
AUGUST 27:

QUOTE: Q: WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE EFFORTS TO
GET A NEGOTIATING FORUM STARTED OR FOUND FOR THE CYPRUS
SITUATION? HAVE THE GREEKS TOLD US, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THEY
ACCEPT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL?

A: WE HAVE HAD NO OFFICIAL WORD FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT
ON THAT SUBJECT. I REALLY CAN'T TAKE YOU ANY FURTHER THAN
I DID YESTERDAY. WE ARE STILL TRYING TO DO WHAT WE CAN
HERE TO GET NEGOTIATIONS STARTED, BUT I JUST CAN'T TAKE
YOU ANY FURTHER THAN WHERE IT WAS YESTERDAY.

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Q: THERE WAS A REPORT FROM ATHENS THIS MORNING TO THE EFFECT THAT AMBASSADOR TASCA CARRIED AT LEAST ONE MESSAGE TO KARAMANLIS OVER THE WEEKEND STRONGLY URGING THAT HE NOT ACCEPT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL. IS THAT TRUE? SECOND, DOES NOT THAT EXCHANGE REPRESENT SOME INDICATION FROM THE GREEKS WHAT THEIR INTENTION IS -- OR WAS?

A: WELL, I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE QUESTION OF OUR CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGES WITH THE DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS. I HAVE SAID THIS MANY TIMES. I JUST DON'T WANT TO GET INTO IT.

Q: YOU HAVE SAID MANY TIMES THAT WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN JUST ABOUT ANY PROCESS THAT'S ACCEPTABLE TO ALL SIDES, TO GET NEGOTIATIONS GOING. AT THIS MOMENT, WHAT SEEMS THE -- WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS? WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE FORUMS, IF ANY?

WHAT ARE THE LIVE PROSPECTS NOW FOR RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS IN OUR VIEW -- NOT "DO WE HAVE A PLAN" YOU HAVE SPOKEN SO OFTEN ON HOW WE DON'T HAVE A PLAN.

BUT WHAT'S OUT THERE THAT'S LIVE, AND POSSIBLE?

A: WELL, SINCE I MET WITH YOU YESTERDAY, THE PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS AND THE VICE PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS HAVE HAD THEIR FIRST MEETING. I HAVE NOT HAD A SPECIFIC REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING.

I HAVE SEEN THE COMMENTS THAT SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM MADE ABOUT IT.

THIS, AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, THAT WE WOULD WELCOME MR. DENKTASH AND MR. CLERIDES GETTING TOGETHER.

THEY NOW HAVE GOTTEN TOGETHER AND IT APPEARS THAT THEY ARE NOW GOING TO MEET EVERY MONDAY. I THINK THIS IS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. AT THE MOMENT, THEY ARE APPARENTLY TALKING ABOUT HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS, WHICH IS THE MOST URGENT PROBLEM ON THE ISLAND.

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AS THEY CONTINUE TO HAVE THEIR MEETINGS, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THIS WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE, VERY POSITIVE, EFFECT ON THE OTHER PROBLEMS THAT FACE THAT ISLAND.

I MEAN, THAT'S THE ONLY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT THAT I CAN GIVE YOU SINCE WE WERE TOGETHER YESTERDAY.

Q: DOES THAT HAVE THE BEST CHANCE, DO YOU THINK, OF ALL

THE THINGS WE'VE HEARD ABOUT, OF DEVELOPING INTO A FORUM THAT WOULD GO BEYOND HUMANITARIAN, INTO TERRITORIAL AND TROOP STRENGTH QUESTIONS?

A: I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE WHETHER IT WOULD BE "THE BEST" FORUM OR NOT. I THINK THAT IT IS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT.

AND I HOPE THAT IT WILL LEAD TO SOME PROGRESS TOWARDS ARRIVING AT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT ON THE ISLAND. I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE THIS THAT IT IS THE "BEST" AND THE "ONLY" FORUM, OBVIOUSLY.

Q: AND YOU MIGHT ALREADY HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE IN HANDLING IT -- BUT DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN GIRL NAMED LUCY SAVVIDES, WHO IS BEING HELD BY TURKISH TROOPS, AND HAS BEEN TRYING FOR THREE DAYS, TO GET TO THE U.N. FORCES -- AND HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO? (FYI: THIS WAS THE SUBJECT OF A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS BY NEWSMEN. THE MATTER WAS CLEARED UP FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING WHEN IT WAS REPORTED BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT SHE HAD BEEN RELEASED. END FYI) UNQUOTE KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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